

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: NATO DISCUSSION OF US-SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: USNATO 158

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE NOW IS THE TIME FOR DISCUSSION IN
POLADS OF REASONS FOR SOVIET DECISION CONCERNING 1972
US-USSR TRADE AGREEMENT. YOU SHOULD CONVEY THIS VIEW TO
LUNS, AND DE STAERCKE AS APPROPRIATE, AND URGE THEM TO
DEFER ANY POLAD DISCUSSION OF SOVIET MOVE. U.S. HAS BEEN
MOST FORTHCOMING IN THE PAST IN BRIEFING AND CONSULTING
WITH ALLIES ON US-SOVIET BILATERAL QUESTIONS AND WILL DO
SO ON THIS MATTER AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

2. BEGIN FYI. WE ARE STILL STUDYING RAMIFICATIONS OF
SOVIET ACTION AND BELIEVE THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE
SERVED BY IMMEDIATE SPECULATION REGARDING SOVIET MOTIVES.
WHILE WE RECOGNIZE LEGITIMATE INTEREST AMONG ALLIES ON
THIS ISSUE, WE WOULD HOPE TO DEFER DISCUSSION FOR THE
PRESENT. END FYI. KISSINGER

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